

## SBA Helps Carry the Weight of Small Business Entrepreneurship



*SBA Lender Relations Specialist, Rick Haney and WV Fitness 24 Owner, Clint Aragona*

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps small businesses at any and all stages of their lifecycle, from start to finish. However, sometimes all they need is a little assistance to get going. That is exactly the case with WV Fitness 24.

Clint Aragona, a trainer by trade, is no stranger to entrepreneurship. Aragona's parent's owned and operated a restaurant for 35 years in Shinnston, WV. When he showed his own interest in starting a business, his family threw their full support – and finances – behind him.

Even with the help from his family, Aragona relied on the SBA to help carry some of the weight with a guaranteed loan to make his business successful. He received three separate loan guarantees from the agency to purchase and upgrade equipment.

WV Fitness 24 opened its doors in 2003 at its current location at Big Lots Plaza in Bridgeport, WV. Aragona is now diligently working to relocate the business to the former YMCA building in Bridgeport in early January. A true Small Business Administration success story is an

entrepreneur who may need SBA assistance to get started but is able to grow their business and secure financing on their own in the future; that is what WV Fitness 24 accomplished.

“With the help from my parents and the SBA I was able to start my small business,” states Aragona. “I am looking forward to the next phase of my business – moving to a new location, double our current size, where my wife, Ashley, and I can provide a fitness center that our family, friends and neighbors can join our passion of living a fit lifestyle.”

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps small businesses, like WV Fitness 24, start, grow, and succeed. For more information on the programs and services available through the agency, visit [www.sba.gov/wv](http://www.sba.gov/wv).

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